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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,068	02/09/2005	Norbert Roesner	20798/0204622-US0	4434
7278	7590	07/28/2006	EXAMINER BARRERA, RAMON M	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			ART UNIT 2832	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/524,068

Applicant(s)

ROESNER ET AL.

Examiner

Ramon M. Barrera

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/9/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 12, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young.

Young in figs. 12-14 discloses an electrical switching device having multiple poles (col. 6, lines 21-28) comprising an insulating housing 2, an incoming 120 and outgoing 120 terminal contact, each terminal contact having a contact 130 at a first end, a first connection device 134 disposed at a second end 128, and a pluggable second connection device 138 between the ends.

3. Claims 12, 14, 16-19, 21-22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmiedel.

Schmiedel in fig. 3 discloses an electrical switching device having multiple poles comprising an insulating housing 216, an incoming 190 and outgoing 192 terminal contact, each terminal contact having a contact at a first end, a second pluggable connection device disposed at a second end, and a first connection device (198,200) between the ends.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young or Schmiedel, cited above.

Young or Schmiedel disclosed receiving holes in their pluggable second connection device but failed to disclose the receiving hole having a contact tab section at an edge portion thereof. It was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art that a contact tab section at an edge of a receiving hole on a male connector was for the purpose of a more secure connection with the female connector. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ a contact tab section at the edge of the receiving hole in Young's or Schmiedel's male connector for the purpose recognized in the art of Young or Schmiedel, as discussed above.

6. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmiedel, et al, cited above.

Schmiedel failed to disclose wherein the housing includes an access area configured to provide access to the respective second connection device outlined by predetermined breaking points. It was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art to conceal access to connection terminals with a housing having predetermined

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breaking points for the purpose of insulating unused terminals. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide predetermined breaking points on a housing for the purpose recognized in the art of Schmiedel, as discussed above.

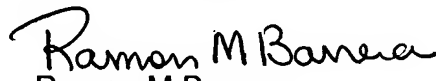
### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramon M. Barrera whose telephone number is (571) 272-1987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 11 to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Ramon M Barrera  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2832

rmb